

Columbus Democrat.

H. H. WORTHINGTON, Editor.

A STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTION—THE ONLY SAFEGUARD OF THE SOUTH.

J. PORTER, Publisher.

Old Series—Vol. XVI.

CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1849.

New Series—Vol. 1, No. 25.

THE DEMOCRAT

Is Published every Saturday,

ON THE FOLLOWING

TERMS.

SUBSCRIPTION.

THREE DOLLARS in advance. FOUR DOLLARS, if

payment is delayed until the expiration of the year.

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Inserted at \$1 per square (ten lines or less) for the

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The Death of the Flowers.

BY W. C. BRYANT.

The melancholy days are come, the saddest of the

year.

Of wailing winds, and naked woods, and meadows

brown and bare;

Heaped in the hollow of the grove the withered leaves

lie dead.

They rustle to the eddying gust, and to the rabbit's

tread.

The robin and the wren are flown, and from the

shrub the jay.

And from the wood-top calls the crow, through all

the gloomy day.

Where are the flowers, the fair young flowers, that

lately sprung and stood,

In brighter light and softer airs, a hesitating neigh-

borhood?

Alas! they are all in their graves, the gentle race of

flowers

Are lying in their lovely beds, with the fair and good

of oars.

The rain is falling where they lie, but the cold No-

vember rain

Calls not from out the gloomy earth the lovely ones

again.

The wild flower and the violet, they perished long

ago;

And the briar-rose and orchis died amid the summer's

glow;

But on the hill the golden rod, and the aster in the

wood,

And the yellow sunflower by the brook in autumn

beauty stood.

'Till fell the frost from the clear cold heaven, as falls

the plague on men;

And the brightness of their smiles was gone, from

upland, glade and glen.

And now when comes the calm mid days, as still

such days will come,

To call the squirrel and the bee from out their

wintery homes;

When sound of dropping nuts is heard, though all

the woods are still.

And twinkle in the smoky light the water of the rill,

The south wind searches for the flowers, whose frag-

rance late he bore,

And sighs to find them in the wood and by the

streams no more.

And then I think of one, who in her youthful beauty died

The fair meek blossom that grew up and faded by my

side;

In the cold moist earth we laid her, when the forest

cast the leaf,

And wept that one so lovely should have a life so brief.

Yet 't not unmeet it was that one, like that young

friend of ours,

So gentle and so beautiful, should perish with the

flowers.

THE CONSUMPTION OF COTTON.

The following communication will be found to

possess some interest for a large class of com-

mercial persons at the present time:

At the present time, when it is of vital impor-

tance to the interests of a large class of manu-

facturers, to ascertain how far an adequate supply

of the raw material, at a sufficiently moderate price,

may be secured, it is desirable to consider the

question more calmly and comprehensively than

is usually done by parties embarked in specu-

lative operations, whose opinions, as well as

their statements, are naturally biased by their

interests.

Whether the immense rise which has taken

place in the price of cotton during the past twelve

months, be altogether the legitimate result of

consumption increasing in a greater ratio than

production, arising from a disproportionate ac-

cumulation of industrial capital in this and other

countries having been directed to manufacturing

operations, compared with that employed in rais-

ing a corresponding increased quantity of the

raw material; or, whether a considerable part of

the advanced price is to be attributed to the abun-

dance of unemployed capital in the hands of bank-

ers, and the consequent facilities afforded for

speculative operations, it is certain, that in

this, as in all similar cases, nothing could

be contrived more effectually to stimulate an in-

creased supply than the recent enhancement of

price.

When the expense of freight and other charges

is deducted from the market prices at both periods,

it is apparent that the American planter has now

the stimulus held out to excite his diligence and

activity, of double the price for his produce, that

he could have looked for, this time last year.—

If such an incentive proves inadequate to bring

forward an ample supply, it will be the best jus-

tification of the late advance.

But though an advance of price is the natural

among nations, that it tends to diminish the fre-

quency, as well as the extent of those violent fluc-

tuations in prices, which, though to some extent

unavoidable, from the vicissitudes of the season,

&c., are often greatly aggravated by the injudi-

cious interference of ill informed Governments.

The effect produced by the sudden interference

of new and inexperienced capitalists, eager only

to grasp at a sudden increase of wealth, but ig-

norant of some of the circumstances bearing on

the question of prices, though the result of a dif-

ferent cause, and calculated to work its own cure,

is, for the time it operates, as baneful as legisla-

tive meddling.

The error generally made by persons imper-

fectly informed on the subject, and by their inter-

ested advisers, is, in considering the consumption

of cotton too much it a fixed quantity. They know

that it is the interest of a mill owner to continue

to work his machinery not merely without profit,

but even at such a loss as does not exceed that

which he would incur though his works were

idle, from loss of interest on capital, insurance, lo-

cal and national taxes, expense of keeping his

machinery in order, &c.; and therefore they calcu-

late that the ordinary consumption of cotton

will go on, notwithstanding a considerable rise

in prices, provided the margin is not overstepped

when the necessity of stopping the machinery

becomes indubitable.

It is quite a mistake, however, to suppose, that

at all times when a cotton mill is at work, it must

necessarily be consuming the same quantity of

the raw material. It is true that when a mill is

erected and filled with machinery, there is not

only a particular description of yarn, but a par-

ticular size or range of sizes, which it is intended

to produce, and for which it is, therefore, best ad-

apted. According to the description and size of

yarn to be made will depend the quantity of

cotton capable of being used. For example,

and not to take a very extreme case, a mill ad-

apted to spin coarse Nos. of water twist, will man-

ufacture a quantity of cotton equal to eight or ten

mills of the same extent arranged for spinning

No. 60 mule warp. When we hear, therefore,

of certain mills being stopped or put on short

time in consequence of the advanced price of the

raw material, it is necessary to know the descrip-

tion of yarn spun by them to be able to judge ac-

curely of the effect to be produced on the quan-

tity of cotton consumed.

But while there is a particular range of num-

bers, for which each mill is best suited, it is nei-

ther impossible nor very inconvenient to vary this

range to a moderate extent, according to the de-

mand and other circumstances, as well as to the

state of the cotton market. Such changes involve

neither outlay nor loss of time, and are resorted

to, in individual cases, every day to meet very

trifling alterations in the style of goods wanted.

And to show the important bearing of such chan-

ges on the consumption of the raw material, it is

only necessary to state that, supposing the aver-

age number of yarn spun in this country to be

raised only from No. 35 to No. 40, the quantity

of cotton consumed in a year would be diminished

not less than a quarter of a million of bales,

and yet neither time of working nor the number

of persons employed be at all reduced.

It is in this manner, indeed, that rapid changes

in the quantity of cotton consumed are generally

produced, rather than by a sudden increase

in the number of mills, or from improve-

ments in machinery, to which causes the varia-

tions in consumption are frequently ascribed,

though it must be obvious that they must operate

slowly and gradually.

In coarse yarns two-thirds of the price arises

from the cost of the raw material, and that propor-

tion constantly diminishes as you ascend to finer

numbers. When cotton is cheap, therefore, the

cost of heavy goods, which are made from coarse

yarn, is diminished in a much greater ratio than

the lighter description made from finer yarns; and

the demand will always increase with a diminished

cost; these heavy goods, so long as the raw ma-

terial remains cheap, will relatively be the most

profitable.

On the other hand, when cotton is dear, the

cost of such heavy goods is increased in a great-

er ratio than others; but the extended consump-

tion having been the result of low prices, can

only be maintained by the same means. The

manufacturer becomes unprofitable, part of the

machinery is directed to a somewhat finer range

of spinning; another part is put on reduced time,

and, perhaps, a portion stopped altogether, till

either the diminution of production creates such

a scarcity of the manufactured article as leads to

higher prices, or a reduction in the price of the

raw material again assimilates the cost to the

selling price of such goods. The present aspect

of things in the cotton manufacturing districts af-

fords a striking illustration of the working of this

natural process, and is calculated to open the

eyes of those who are apt, in judging of the

probable prices of the raw material to con-

fine their attention to the prospects of supply.

And the inference to be drawn, from the con-

sideration of this reciprocal action of prices upon

consumption, is not limited to the check which

it imposes on an undue rise in the price of the raw

material, it ought, also, to impart confidence in

the grower, that he need fear no excessive de-

preciation from abundant crop, since a very slight

decline in the average value is certain to stimu-

late a greatly increased consumption.

Liverpool Chronicle.

EXPERIENCE IN THE GOLD REGION.—The

New York Journal of Commerce, of Wednesday

gives the following instructive report:

An intelligent young friend, who has just re-

turned from California, gives his experience in

brief but emphatic language. After a wearisome

voyage round the Cape, he reached San Francis-

co, and left immediately for the "diggings."

There he was sick nearly three months. His

tent was in the midst of dry sand heaps, with

the thermometer at an average of 112 degrees

during the day. Many of the amateur gold dig-

gers were exhausted with the hard labor, and

suffering from blistered hands; others were going

about with their arms in slings from the same

cause. Finding his recovery doubtful if he re-

mained at the mines, after paying his nurse

\$500, and his physician \$700 more, he was able

to reach San Francisco and embark for home.

Just before he left that place, two young men

whose parents are opulent in New York, and

whom he had often seen in fashionable costume

on Broadway, accosted him. Their rough ex-

recognised. One of them was driving an ox-

team at \$300 per month, and the other, at simi-

lar wages was carrying bricks on a board strap-

ped round his neck, as a tender to some masons.

With scarcely an exception, the gold hunters

were all anxious to return. Pride prevented

some; want of means many others. Some of

them congratulated him that he had such a good

excuse for returning. They would willingly ex-

change their health for his debility, if they could

only reach their homes again. Disappointment

and dejection were common. Scarcely one had

realized even moderate expectations.

THE VOICE OF VIRGINIA.

No State has spoken more promptly, or will

act more decidedly upon the subject of Northern

aggressions, than the Old Dominion. Governor

Floyd in his annual message last week to the

Legislature, after detailing wrongs and injuries

sustained by the South, and impending over her

this speaks:

"The loyalty and devotion to Virginia to the

Union are known to the world. They are writ-

ten upon the enduring pages of our country's his-

tory. She was among the first to strike for con-

stitutional liberty; she will be the last to abandon

it. The great compromises upon which it rests

she offered; and she herself suffered the chief

sacrifices to secure its permanency—she has

given with a liberality, which at this day can

scarcely be reconciled with the dictates of wis-

dom. In all things touching the honor and glory

of our confederacy her hand has never closed,

except on the sword.

She cannot submit to this usurpation of au-

thority; this violation of her rights; this wanton

aggression, let us insist that the question be

settled now and forever. Let us have no pallia-

tives—no deceptive truces, no delays which give

strength to the spirit of aggression; no compro-

misses which leave the question open for future

adjustment. Let it be settled as to every foot of

territory belonging to the United States, or which

may hereafter be hers, by a compact as solemn

and inviolable as the constitution itself. Anything

short of this is certain ruin to the South; it is

annihilation. If a conflict must come, let it come

now. We are strong in reality—stronger still

in comparison with those whose hands are al-

ready raised against us. A few more years of

acquiescence and supineness will bring about a

necessity of an absolute submission to every

wrong which oppression or contempt might heap

upon our country.

Submission to the proposed action of Con-

gress is a virtual surrender of the entire South

to the African race. If slavery is to be confin-

ed to its present limits, with a girdle of free

States surrounding us, from the Atlantic to the

Gulf of Mexico, a very few years, in a nation's

history, will be sufficient to drive the white man

beyond its limits. The sturdy laborer, the stay

and support of every community, would soon

leave the country swarming with negroes, for

a residence in another land. The master, too,

would presently follow, finding it impossible to

remain. This view is no matter of conjecture

merely; a simple rule of arithmetic will fix the

fact and time of its consummation, taking as a

basis of the calculation the census of the last

thirty years. Such are the fruits which the

Northern fanaticism, viewed in its most favor-

able aspect, must produce to the South. The con-

sequences to the North will be little less disas-

trous. The great American staples must be cut

short—the foreign commerce sustained by them

will disappear from the seaports of our enterpris-

ing neighbors—their manufactures, should they

be continued, must find a market abroad, in un-

protected competition with the labor of Europe.

The thrift and prosperity which now so pre-

eminently characterize the working classes of New

England, and the North would vanish away;

and the mechanic and laborer would find when

too late, that whilst striking the manacles of

legal slavery from the hands of the African, he

had riveted upon the necks of his own children

the bondage of necessity, which no earthly power

could ever again remove.

England's experiment with her West India

colonies has proved a failure; this is admitted by

all. It has not elevated the character of the ne-

gro man, nor has it contributed to his happiness.

But the fatal consequences which are certainly

to result to England from that stupendous folly,

will, in the course of years, take from that colos-

sal power the supremacy of the seas. It has struck

a deadly blow at her colonial trade; and this

was one of the chief elements of her maritime

superiority. Shall examples of this sort teach us

nothing? Is a blind fanaticism to overwhelm all

things in its course.

This, I solemnly believe, is the most favorable

view which can be taken of the subject, if Con-

gress persists in the present course of aggression

towards us.

But the wildest visionary would hardly ex-

pect to see these results brought peacefully about.

Humanity itself must shudder at the bare con-

templation of the slaughter most certainly to fol-

low a prosecution of these iniquitous schemes.—

We cannot leave our homes; the ashes of Wash-

ington, Henry and Jefferson may not be desecra-

ted by the tread of the African's foot. The men

of the South will not remain passive; the sword

will not rest in the scabbard, whilst fanaticism

is erecting at our hearth-stone an altar, upon

which the victims of sacrifice are to be our daugh-

ters and our wives.

The almost unanimous sentiment of slave-

holding country upon this subject is not the

result of political agitation seeking for party as-

sendency. It is the spontaneous outburst of a whole

people, upon the conviction that their dearest

rights are menaced. Party prejudices and an-

timosities are buried; every tenet of faith and shade

of political opinion, agree perfectly; and the novel

spectacle is presented of eight millions of peo-

ple, actuated by and obedient to a single deter-

mination, arising as one man to stay the hand of

usurpation and wrong.

Let us trust that our brethren at the North will

understand before it is forever too late, that a

feeling of self preservation, and not of silly bra-

vado, actuates our course. Let us hope still that

our common suffering and common triumphs, the

memories of the past and the bright hopes of the

future which we offer to all mankind, may stay

the madness which is precipitating us into a ruin

from which no human power can ever grant us

even the hope of rescue."

THE BOSTON MYSTERY.

As the case of the missing Dr. Parkman of

Boston, is creating so much excitement in that

city, we give the following account of all the cir-

cumstances yet developed, from the Boston Jour-

nal:

"The city was thrown into a state of the most

intense excitement this morning, by the announce-

ment that Prof. John W. Webster, of Cambridge,

had been arrested and committed to Leverett st.

jail upon suspicion of having been the murderer

of Dr. George Parkman, who very mysteriously

disappeared during the afternoon of Friday, 23d

ult. The excitement remains unabated, and in

fact, is hourly increasing. At almost every cor-

ner, and in various parts of the city, groups of

persons have been, and still are, engaged in dis-

cussing and speculating upon the facts that have

already come to light, as well as upon the thou-

sand and one rumors, for which there is very lit-

tle if any foundation.

So far as can be ascertained, it appears that

Mr. Ephraim Littlefield, who resides at the Med-

ical College in North Grove street, had been im-

pressed with the belief ever since it was as-

certained that Dr. Parkman entered the College

building on Friday, of last week, that he never

left it living, or that his body had been removed.

Actuated by this belief & also becoming strength-

ened in his conviction, Mr. Littlefield cut a hole

through the wall of the college, so as to give him

access to a basement room directly under-

neath Prof. Webster's private "chemical depart-

ment." From this apartment a door opened at

the head of a stairway leading to the basement

room. This door, it is now stated, has never

been known to have been opened by any person

excepting Mr. Webster. Upon gaining access

to the basement room, Mr. Littlefield found there

in the right leg and a small portion of the lower

part of the body of a man. This circumstance

being immediately made known to the proper au-

thorities, a search of the apartment occupied by

Prof. Webster was instituted, which resulted in

the finding of bones and parts of bones, belong-

ing to a human body, which had apparently been

recently buried so that the flesh and cords were

entirely consumed.

These facts, in addition to the one that Prof.

Webster's apartment was in the opposite wing

of the building from that used for dissecting pur-

poses, and there being no known reason why a

human body or any part thereof, should be in or

about the premises, were deemed sufficient to

warrant his arrest. Accordingly, officers Clapp

and Starkweather were dispatched in a private

carriage to the residence of Prof. Webster, in

Cambridge, last evening, and made the arrest ab-

ove stated. This has been done, although the

part of the body found has not yet been identified

as a portion of that of Dr. Parkman, and it is

a matter of considerable doubt if it can be so

identified.

It is also stated as an unusual fact, that during

the past six or eight days a fire has been con-

stantly kept burning in the furnace in the apart-

ment occupied by Prof. Webster, and that for a

long time previous no fire whatever had been in

his room. The foregoing is believed to be sub-

stantially a correct statement of the main feature

of this melancholy affair.

The public may rest assured that no exertions

will be spared by the authorities to sift this mat-

ter to the bottom, and in the meantime it is due

to Prof. Webster, who has heretofore maintained

a high standing in the community, to suspend

judgment in relation to this affair until an in-

vestigation has taken place.

Since the above was in type, we learn that Mr.

Webster, ordered at the store of Mr. Waterman

83 and 85 Cornhill, a box to be made of stout

lin, soldered tight, with the exception of the

cover, and that to be made so that it could be eas-

ily soldered on in its proper place. This box

was to be about three feet in length, by one foot

and a half in depth and width, and was directed

to be sent yesterday to Prof. Webster, but with-

out to his apartment at the college, or his resi-

dence at Cambridge, we did not learn.

Another fact reported to the authorities is, that

among the ashes in the furnace of Mr. Webster's

room at the college, there have been found par-

ticles of melted silver and gold. Also a part of

the lower jaw bone of a human being, one or

more of the teeth in which is filled with gold in

a peculiar manner at the edge, corresponding

precisely with those of Dr. Parkman. These,

with other circumstances which are being brought

to light, give a dark complexion to the matter, as

far as Prof. Webster is concerned, and together

with some other incautious and inflammatory

statements published in some of the penny pa-

pers have created some excitement against the

medical institution in North Grove street.

Threats of demolishing the building have been

uttered in the heat of the moment, by some in-

dividuals; but no serious apprehensions are felt

that the peace of the city will be disturbed.—

We understand, however, that Mayor Bigelow

has adopted the most energetic measures to sup-

press at a moment's warning any riotous proceed-

ings.

Prof. Webster remains in jail, and is in the

deepest state of excitement—so much so that

physicians have pronounced it unsafe to bring

him out at present for examination.

A strong police force is in attendance at the

college, and all persons are denied admittance.

A number of chemists and physicians are en-

gaged in analysing the ashes found in the grate

of the room.

The inquest will commence on Wednesday

next. The police assert that they have further

information against the accused, which will not

be divulged until the sitting of the coroner's in-

quest.